Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1.   (previously presented) A system that maintains synchronization between a video signal and an audio signal that are processed using clocks that are locked, the system comprising:

a component that determines at least one initial level of a buffer;

a component that determines at least one current level of the buffer; and

a component that determines an amount of drift by comparing the at least one initial level of the buffer to the at least one current level of the buffer and adjusts the clocks to maintain the initial midpoint level of the buffer if the amount of drift reaches a threshold level.

2.   (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 1, wherein the at least one initial level of the buffer comprises an initial midpoint level (Init Mid).

3.   (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 1, wherein the at least one initial level of the buffer comprises an initial minimum operating level (Init Min), an initial maximum operating level (Init Max), and an initial midpoint level (Init Mid).

4.   (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 3, wherein the initial midpoint level (Init Mid) is computed according to the following formula:

initial midpoint level (Init Mid) = (initial maximum operating level (Init Max) + initial minimum operating level (Init Min))/2.

5.   (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 1, wherein the at least one current level of the buffer comprises a current midpoint level (Cur Mid).

6.   (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 3, wherein the at least one current level of the buffer comprises a current minimum operating level (Cur Min), a current maximum operating level (Cur Max), and a current midpoint level (Cur Mid).

7.   (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 6, wherein the current midpoint level (Cur Mid) is calculated according to the following formula:
Operating Midpoint = current midpoint level (Cur Mid) = current minimum operating level (Cur Min) + initial midpoint level (Init Mid) - initial minimum operating level (Init Min).

8.   (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 1, wherein the audio signal and the video signal comprise a Motion Picture Experts Group (MPEG) signal.

9.   (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 1, wherein the system comprises a portion of a television set.

10.   (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 9, wherein the television set comprises a High Definition Television (HDTV) set.

11.   (previously presented) A system that maintains synchronization between a video signal and an audio signal that are processed using clocks that are locked, the system comprising:
        means for determining at least one initial level of a buffer;
        means for determining at least one current level of the buffer;
        means for determining an amount of drift by comparing the at least one initial level of the buffer to the at least one current level of the buffer; and
        means for adjusting the clocks to maintain the initial midpoint level of the buffer if the amount of drift reaches a threshold level.

12.   (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 11, wherein the at least one initial level of the buffer comprises an initial midpoint level (Init Mid).

13.   (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 11, wherein the at least one initial level of the buffer comprises an initial minimum operating level (Init Min), an initial maximum operating level (Init Max), and an initial midpoint level (Init Mid).

14.   (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 13, wherein the initial midpoint level (Init Mid) is computed according to the following formula:
initial midpoint level (Init Mid) = (initial maximum operating level (Init Max) + initial minimum operating level (Init Min))/2.

15.   (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 13, wherein the at least one current level of the buffer comprises a current midpoint level (Cur Mid).

16.   (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 13, wherein the at least one current level of the buffer comprises a current minimum operating level (Cur Min), a current maximum operating level (Cur Max), and a current midpoint level (Cur Mid).

17.   (previously presented) The system set forth in claim 16, wherein the current midpoint level (Cur Mid) is calculated according to the following formula:
Operating Midpoint = current midpoint level (Cur Mid) = current minimum operating level (Cur Min) + initial midpoint level (Init Mid) - initial minimum operating level (Init Min).

18.   (previously presented) A method of maintaining synchronization between a video signal and an audio signal that are processed using clocks that are locked, the method comprising:
        determining at least one initial level of a buffer;
        determining at least one current level of the buffer; and
        determining an amount of drift by comparing the at least one initial level of the buffer to the at least one current level of the buffer; and

adjusting the clocks to maintain the initial midpoint level of the buffer if the amount of drift reaches a threshold level.

19.   (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 18, comprising:

defining the at least one initial level of the buffer to comprise an initial minimum operating level (Init Min), an initial maximum operating level (Init Max), and an initial midpoint level (Init Mid); and

computing the initial midpoint level (Init Mid) according to the following formula: initial midpoint level (Init Mid) = (initial maximum operating level (Init Max) + initial minimum operating level (Init Min))/2.

20.   (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 19, comprising:

defining the at least one current level of the buffer to comprise a current minimum operating level (Cur Min), a current maximum operating level (Cur Max), and a current midpoint level (Cur Mid); and

computing the current midpoint level (Cur Mid) according to the following formula: Operating Midpoint = current midpoint level (Cur Mid) = current minimum operating level (Cur Min) + initial midpoint level (Init Mid) - initial minimum operating level (Init Min).